

County of Los Angeles Fire Department

Prevention Services Bureau / Forestry Division



Vegetation Management Unit
12605 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2129
818.890.5720



Live Fuel Moisture Summary

October 15, 2020

LOCATION	THOMAS GUIDE	SPECIES	LIVE FUEL MOISTURE		
LOS ANGELES BASIN			CURRENT	PREVIOUS	%CHANGE
GLENDORA RIDGE, GLENDORA	569 E1	CHAMISE	60%	62%	-3.2%
LA TUNA CANYON, TUJUNGA	503 J5	CHAMISE	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAUREL CANYON, MT. OLYMPUS	593 A1	CHAMISE	61%	65%	-6.2%
WOOLSEY CANYON, CHATSWORTH	499 C7	CHAMISE	N/A	N/A	N/A
GLENDORA RIDGE, GLENDORA	569 E1	HOARYLEAF CEANOTHUS	48%	47%	2.1%
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS			CURRENT	PREVIOUS	%CHANGE
CLARK MOTORWAY, MALIBU	586 G7	CHAMISE	N/A	N/A	N/A
STUNT ROAD, CALABASAS	589 D5	CHAMISE	62%	61%	1.6%
SCHUEREN ROAD, MALIBU	629 E1	CHAMISE	57%	56%	1.8%
TRIPPET RANCH, TOPANGA	590 B6	CHAMISE	57%	60%	-5%
CLARK MOTORWAY, MALIBU	586 G7	BIGPOD CEANOTHUS	N/A	N/A	N/A
TRIPPET RANCH, TOPANGA	590 B6	BLACK SAGE	55%	60%	-8.3%
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY			CURRENT	PREVIOUS	%CHANGE
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	CHAMISE	56%	55%	1.8%
PEACH MOTORWAY, SANTA CLARITA	4640 J5	CHAMISE	N/A	N/A	N/A
PLACERITA CANYON, SANTA CLARITA	4642 B2	CHAMISE	N/A	N/A	N/A
BOUQUET CANYON, SAUGUS	4461 G1	CHAMISE	60%	64%	-6.3%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	BLACK SAGE	56%	57%	-1.8%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	PURPLE SAGE	55%	55%	0%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH	56%	57%	-1.8%
HIGH COUNTRY			CURRENT	PREVIOUS	%CHANGE
TEMPLIN HIGHWAY, CASTAIC	4279 A3	CHAMISE	59%	61%	-3.3%
SOLEDAD CANYON RD, ACTON	4464 B7	CHAMISE	N/A	N/A	N/A
TANBARK FLATS, GLENDORA	540 F2	CHAMISE	74%	76%	-2.6%
TANBARK FLATS, GLENDORA	540 F2	HOARYLEAF CEANOTHUS	45%	49%	-8.2%
SUMMARY			CURRENT	PREVIOUS	%CHANGE
LOS ANGELES BASIN CHAMISE (average)			61%	64%	-4.7%
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAMISE (average)			59%	59%	-0.6%
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CHAMISE (average)			58%	60%	-2.5%
HIGH COUNTRY CHAMISE (average)			67%	69%	-2.9%
ALL AREAS ALL FUELS (average)			57%	59%	-2.7%

- LFM is calculated by the formula (Live Sample Weight–Dry Sample Weight)/Dry Sample Weight.
- 60% is generally recognized as approaching a critical level of live-fuel moisture.
- Sampling date: Los Angeles Basin sites were sampled 10/14/20 (La Tuna site burned over during La Tuna Incident in September 2017; Woolsey Site burned over during Woolsey Incident in November 2018), Santa Monica Mountains 10/14/20 (Clark Motorway site burned over during Woolsey Incident in November 2018), Santa Clarita Valley 10/13/20 (Peach Motorway site burned over during Calgrove Incident in June 2015; Placerita Canyon site burned over during Sand Incident in July 2016), and High Country sites 10/13/20 (Soledad Canyon site burned over during Sand Incident in July 2016).

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE SUMMARY / FIRE DANGER ZONE DISCUSSION

Live Fuel Sampling is being reestablished at 4 Historic sites: Woolsey Canyon, Tanbark Flats, Templin Highway & Soledad Road. The addition of these sites will allow for the tracking of LFM in the High Country and Los Angeles Basin. The Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Clarita Valley and All Areas All Fuels Data sets and Graphs remain unchanged by these additions.

The average Live Fuel Moisture values for plant species sampled in Los Angeles County are approaching or below the "critical threshold" value. All plant species sampled throughout LA County have set seed and are in dormancy phase (no longer absorbing water); annuals have fully cured. With the usual seasonal warming, we are seeing the annual decline in the moisture content consistent with the 30-year trend.